

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-20 are pending in the current application. Claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15 are independent claims. Claims 1, 4 and 9 – 12 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced through this amendment.

Entry of Amendment After Final Rejection

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enter the attached amendments in that it is believed these amendments render the subject application in condition for allowance.

Particularly, claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15 have been amended to be in independent form.

Furthermore, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if re-written into independent form. Moreover, the remaining claims have either been cancelled, or are dependent upon one of allowable independent claims 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15.

Therefore, by entering the attached claim amendments, the subject application will be in condition for allowance. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Kudo (US 6,753,880, hereinafter Kudo). Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 4 and 9-12 have been cancelled. Furthermore, claims 2-3 have been amended to be dependent upon allowable claim 5. Therefore, this rejection has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 13-20 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: _____


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